Functioning of BIFR Branches in the Country

1957. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only two branches out of eight of the BIFR are presently functioning in the country,

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure that all the branches of BIFR start functioning immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to the number of BIFR Benches functioning in the country. The Board which became operational in May, 1987 had been functioning with four Benches. With the vacancies caused by retirement of three Members the Board is now functioning with three Benches. Government have already initiated steps to fill up these vacancies.

Steps to check smuggling in Gujarat and Rajasthan

1958. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI':

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raids have been conducted to find out the smuggling of foreign arms/silver/narcotics in Gujarat and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what is the number of persons arrested and found guilty in this regard;

(c) what is the number of warrants issued and the number of culprits gone under-ground; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cornering of shares of Bank of Rajasthan

1959. SHRI KRISHNAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Financial Express dated the 15th April, 1993 regarding cornering of shares of Bank of Rajasthan by Bangur group;

(b) whether it is a fact that earlier the Reserve Bank of India had not approved such transfer of shares; if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have asked the RBI to stall such transfer till a probe in the matter is completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they had directed the Bank of Rajasthan on 25th March, 1993 to refuse the transfer of shares in favour of the Bangur Group.

(c) Government have not issued any such instruction to Reserve Bank of India.

Facilities to staff of Ellaquai Dehati Bank.

1960. SHRI ASH1S SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the migrants staff of Ellaquai Dehati Bank are being deprived of their regular increments, leave facilities, vehicle loan, etc. for which they are entitled to as per service rules and Government orders; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?